Pakistan based militants killed near Katra, Jammu

3259. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five Pakistan based militants were killed by security forces just 15 kilometre from Katra base town for shrine of renowned Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Kashmir in March, 2002;

(b) whether Government has strengthened the security in this region because lakhs of pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi every day; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) On 8.3.2002, 5 terrorists were killed in an encounter with Security Forces near Gobian Nullah at village Gobian Palkhandi under Police Station Katra, District Udhampur, which is about 21 Kms from Katra. Two Police Constables also sustained injuries in the encounter. The area being hilly, the precipice separating the hill on which Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine is located and Gobian is very steep making it virtually impossible for the shrine to be accessed from that side.

(b) and (c) The State Government has informed that important religious places not only in Jammu province but also elsewhere in the State are guarded by static guards which have been provided in addition to the area security. Following the Gobian incident, Director General of Police, J&K took a special review meeting and immediate steps to strengthen the security arrangement has been initiated accordingly.

The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine including the route from Katra is guarded by CRPF conjointly with the State Police and a number of security rings are in place around the shrine.

Mechanism to monitor use of Hindi

3260. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism for monitoring use of Hindi by different Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been noticed that there is little or no use of Hindi by our delegations on official occasions abroad or within the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase the use of Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Each Ministry/Department and Office have Official Language Implementation Committee for monitoring the progressive use of Official Language Hindi. The Committee meets in every three months, wherein quarterly reports received from all sections are discussed. Ministries/Departments furnish consolidated quarterly reports to the Department of Official language which in turn after reviewing these reports, advise them appropriately.

(c) In accordance to the existing instructions of Department of Official Language, it is expected from all Ministries/Departments that their delegations will make more and more use of Hindi on official occasions abroad or within the country. In this regard discussions are also held in the meetings of their Official Language Implementation Committees.

(d) Orders for making use of Hindi in conversations by the delegations during foreign tours are already exists. Recently attention of the Hon'ble Ministers have been drawn towards this that wherever possible, speeches should be made in Hindi on all occasions of national and international importance. Indian delegation visiting abroad should make more and more use of Hindi. If needed, services of interpreters can be obtained from the Indian Embassy.

Sophisticated weapons sought by West Bengal

3261. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has sought sophisticated weapons from Centre after the terrorist attack on American Centre in Kolkata;

(b) if so, whether Central Government has supplied these weapons as per demand of the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) After the terrorist attack on American Centre in Kolkata, Government of West Bengal on 28.01.2002 requested the Central Government for allotment of 1000 Nos. of 5.56 mm INSAS Rifles and 2000 Nos. of 7.62 mm SLRs. Against this demand, 650 Nos. of 5.56 mm INSAS Rifles and 454 Nos. 7.62 mm SLRs alongwith ammunition were immediately allotted to DGP West Bengal.